

System for monitoring the upstream and downstream cable modem channel

Abstract

A system for monitoring the upstream and downstream channels of a cable modem system, using a cable modem or cable modem status monitoring transponder. With additional software, a central monitoring computer and a field cable modem or field cable modem status monitoring transponder, this invention provides a means of monitoring the upstream and downstream path's performance. By utilizing hardware already existing in cable modems or cable modem status monitoring transponders, this invention monitors the upstream and downstream continuously for lost packets, and the downstream channel continuously for Modulation Error Ratio (MER), Bit Error Rate (BER) and carrier level. The system notifies cable system personnel when problems exist in either the upstream or downstream channels so that technicians may be dispatched to the field quickly to effect repair.